

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a virtual device interface, wherein
said virtual device interface is configured to allow a primary storage
[[unit]] device to be accessed using at least one operation that is
substantially the same as that used to control a secondary storage
[[unit]] device,
said virtual device interface is coupled to control said primary storage
[[unit]] device and said secondary storage [[unit]] device,
said primary storage [[unit]] device comprises non-removable storage
media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the
non-removable storage media, and
said secondary storage [[unit]] device comprises removable storage media
and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable
storage media.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein
said virtual device interface is further configured to allow a utility to access said
primary storage [[unit]] device as said secondary storage [[unit]] device.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein
said virtual device interface is a virtual tape interface
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, further comprising
said primary storage [[unit]] device.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein
said virtual tape interface is configured to create a virtual loader on said primary
storage [[unit]] device.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, further comprising:
said secondary storage [[unit]] device.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface comprises:

a virtual loader library, communicatively coupled to said primary storage [[unit]] device; and

a virtual loader utilities module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual tape interface further comprises:

a main module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library; and

a configuration file, accessible by said main module, wherein said configuration file comprises information that allows said virtual loader library to create a virtual loader on said primary storage [[unit]] device.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein
said virtual loader library is configured to allow a utility to access said primary storage [[unit]] device as said secondary storage [[unit]] device.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
converting a first command to a second command using a virtual device interface,

wherein

said first command is configured to control a first type of storage [[unit]] device,

said second command is configured to control a second type of storage [[unit]] device,

said first type of storage [[unit]] device is a secondary storage [[unit]] device,

said second type of storage [[unit]] device is a primary storage [[unit]] device,

said primary storage [[unit]] device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media, and
said secondary storage [[unit]] device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media; and
accessing said secondary storage [[unit]] device using the virtual device interface.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein
said secondary storage [[unit]] device is a tape backup [[unit]] device, and
said primary storage [[unit]] device is a hard drive.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
creating a virtual loader, wherein
said converting and said creating are performed by said virtual device interface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein
said creating creates a directory on said hard drive.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein
said storing stores information in a file in said directory, and
said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said secondary storage [[unit]] device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor;
computer readable medium coupled to said processor; and
computer code, encoded in said computer readable medium, configured to cause
said processor to:

convert a first command to a second command using a virtual device interface, wherein
 said first command is configured to control a first type of storage [[unit]] device,
 said second command is configured to control a second type of storage [[unit]] device,
 said first type of storage [[unit]] device is a secondary storage [[unit]] device,
 said second type of storage [[unit]] device is a primary storage [[unit]] device,
 said primary storage [[unit]] device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media, and
 said secondary storage [[unit]] device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media; and
 access said secondary storage [[unit]] device using the virtual device interface.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said secondary storage [[unit]] device is a tape backup [[unit]] device, and said primary storage [[unit]] device is a hard drive.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 17, further comprising:

said virtual device interface, wherein
 said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to create a virtual loader, and
 said virtual device interface comprises said computer code configured to cause said processor to convert and said computer code configured to cause said processor to create.

19. (Original) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said computer code configured to cause said processor to create is further configured to cause said processor to:

create a directory on said hard drive.

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 19, wherein said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to:

store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said computer code configured to cause said processor to store said
information is further configured to cause said processor to store
said information in a file in said directory, and
said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said secondary storage [[unit]] device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to convert
a first command to a second command, wherein
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage [[unit]]
device,
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage
[[unit]] device,
said first type of storage [[unit]] device is a secondary storage [[unit]]
device,
said second type of storage [[unit]] device is a primary storage [[unit]]
device,
said primary storage [[unit]] device comprises non-removable storage
media and is configured to provide access to data stored on the
non-removable storage media,

said secondary storage [[unit]] device comprises removable storage media
and is configured to permit access to data stored on the removable
storage media, and

a virtual device interface comprises said first set of instructions;
a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
access said secondary storage [[unit]] device using said virtual device
interface; and

computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in
said computer readable media.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 22,
wherein

said secondary storage [[unit]] device is a tape backup [[unit]] device, and
said primary storage [[unit]] device is a hard drive.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23,
further comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
create a virtual loader, wherein
said virtual device interface comprises said first, said second, and said
third set of instructions.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24,
wherein said third set of instructions comprises:

a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
create a directory on said hard drive.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25,
further comprising:

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said fourth set of instructions comprises a second subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cause said processor to store said information in a file in said directory, and said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said secondary storage [[unit]] device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
means for converting a first command to a second command, wherein
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage [[unit]] device,
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage [[unit]] device,
said first type of storage [[unit]] device is a secondary storage [[unit]] device,
said second type of storage [[unit]] device is a primary storage [[unit]] device,
said primary storage [[unit]] device comprises non-removable storage media and a means to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media,
said secondary storage [[unit]] device comprises removable storage media and a means to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media, and
a virtual device interface comprises said means for converting; and
means for accessing said secondary storage [[unit]] device using the virtual device interface.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein
said secondary storage [[unit]] device is a tape backup [[unit]] device, and
said primary storage [[unit]] device is a hard drive.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:
means for creating a virtual loader, wherein
said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting, said
means for accessing, and said means for creating.
31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for creating
comprises:
means for creating a directory on said hard drive.
32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
means for storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein
said means for storing stores information in a file in said directory, and
said file corresponds to said virtual tape.
33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said secondary
storage [[unit]] device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.